

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 IO-13 DODE-00 SS-15 SSO-00
NSCE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05
SP-02 /069 W
-----099373 161459Z /42
O 161445Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2346

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO INFRASTRUCTURE COMPTROLLER

REF: STATE 10900

1. IN CALL ON SYG LUNS JUNE 12, AMBASSADOR BENNETT URGED
EARLY DECISION ON APPOINTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE COMPTROL-
LER FOLLOWING JUNE 16 CLOSING DATE FOR NOMINATIONS.
NOTING THAT US HAS TRADITIONALLY HELD COMPTROLLER POSITION,
AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT US HAS NOMINATED A HIGHLY QUALI-
FIED CANDIDATE IN FSO CHARLES WILDS. EARLY DECISION WOULD
ALLOW WILDS TO ARRIVE BEFORE DEPARTURE OF INCUMBENT ELDON
SMITH. LUNS RECOGNIZED DESIRABILITY OF EARLY DECISION,
BUT PRIVATE OFFICE DIRECTOR VAN CAMPEN IMMEDIATELY RAISED
QUESTION OF WILDS' FRENCH LANGUAGE CAPABILITY, WHICH IS
FORMAL REQUIREMENT OF COMPTROLLER POSITION. LUNS AGREED
THAT LACK OF ADEQUATE FRENCH COULD BE SERIOUS STUMBLING
BLOCK FOR WILDS' CANDIDACY.

2. IT MAY WELL BE THAT THE RAISING OF LANGUAGE CAPABILITY
MAY BE POSTURING ON THE PART OF THE PRIVATE OFFICE SINCE
THERE HAVE BEEN RECENT DEMARCHES MADE BY FRENCH PERMREP
TO ENSURE THE LEGAL STATUS OF FRENCH AS ONE OF TWO OFFI-
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CIAL NATO LANGUAGES. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR OUR
CANDIDATE AND TO NOTE THAT FRENCH LANGUAGE CAPABILITY HAS
NOT BEEN A BAR TO PREDECESSORS IN THIS JOB. WE WOULD
LIKE TO KNOW, HOWEVER, IF WILDS HAS USEABLE KNOWLEDGE OF
FRENCH. IF NOT, WHAT IS MINIMUM PERIOD OF TRAINING CON-
SIDERED NECESSARY FOR 3X3 LEVEL FLUENCY?

3. PLEASE ADVISE. GLITMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USNATO06139
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780252-0180
Format: TEL
From: USNATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780648/aaaabppu.tel
Line Count: 63
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 241ec486-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 10900
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2311098
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO INFRASTRUCTURE COMPTROLLER
TAGS: AORG, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/241ec486-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014